

Message Text

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43

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P R 151345Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3976

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 4872

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGO, US, XF

SUBJECT: SADAT'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON GENEVA AND USG POLICY

1. WE HAVE BEEN STRUCK BY FACT PRESIDENT SADAT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY VOCAL THESE PAST FEW WEEKS IN PUBLICLY CALLING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH AT GENEVA. TONE STRUCK IN MARCH 29 POLICY ADDRESS, WHEN PRESIDENT SAID GENEVA IS NOT ONLY PATH TO PEACE, SEEMS TO HAVE GONE BY THE BOARDS.

2. CLEAREST STATEMENT OF GOE'S PUBLIC SWITCH AWAY FROM STEP-BY-STEP CAME IN USSR-GOE COMMUNIQUE APRIL 24 AFTER FAHMY'S MOSCOW VISIT, IN WHICH BOTH SIDES DECLARED ANY PARTIAL MEASURES AND DECISIONS ABOUT THEM MUST BE INDIVISIBLE PART OF COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT AND MUST BE WORKED OUT AT GENEVA. IN MID-APRIL, SADAT TOLD BEIRUT DAILY AL-NAHAR THAT EGYPT GOES TO GENEVA NOT RPT NOT TO DISCUSS FURTHER STAGE OF DISENGAGEMENT, BUT TO SEEK FINAL SOLUTION. WE HAVE JUST HEARD RADIO BROADCAST OF SADAT'S KUWAIT PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 14. ONCE AGAIN, SPEAKING OF SALZBURG, PRESIDENT SAID GOE MUST GO TO GENEVA SINCE STEP-BY-STEP HAS FAILED; IF PEACE NOT POSSIBLE AT GENEVA, "WE MUST FACE OUR DESTINY", AS WE DID IN OCT 73.

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3. RECENTLY, ALMOST EVERY TIME SADAT SPEAKS OF GENEVA, HE ALSO MAKES A SPECIFIC COMMENT ABOUT SALZBURG, VIZ., USG POLICY REASSESSMENT MUST ADDRESS QUESTION OF WHETHER USG PROTECTS ISRAEL'S CONQUESTS. ON APRIL 14 TO NEW YORK TIMES: DOES USG-GOI SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP REQUIRE DEFENSE OF ISRAEL OF DEFENSE OF ISRAELI OCCUPATION? US MUST DECLARE WHETHER IT WANTS ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. ON MAY DAY IN ASSIUT, SADAT ADDRESSED ORAL MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT FORD: "AT TIME OF USG POLICY REASSESSMENT...IT IS HIGH TIME AMERICA DEFINES STAND TOWARD ISRAEL CLEARLY. IS AMERICA PROTECTING ISRAEL INSIDE HER BORDERS OR INSIDE TERRITORIES SHE USURPED...?" ON MAY 8, HE TOLD DUTCH JOURNALISTS HE IS GOING TO SALZBURG TO "LISTEN", AND IN KUWAIT HE HARKED BACK TO ASSIUT MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT FORD: "I ADDRESSED A QUESTION AND I WANT THE ANSWER: IS US PRTECTING ISRAEL WITHIN HER BORDERS OR WITHIN BORDERS OF TERRITORIES SHE USURPED?" WITHOUT ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION, "IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO FIND MATERIAL FOR DISCUSSION".

4. COMMENT: SADAT'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS ARE, IN OUR JUDGMENT, ATTRIBUTABLE TO A NUMBER OF CAUSES. FIRST, HE HAS BEEN PLAYING TO HIS AUDIENCE IN MAKING THESE PUBLIC CALLS. THERE IS INCREASING DISILLUSIONMENT IN EGYPT AND ARAB WORLD IN EFFICACY OF STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH AND UNCERTAINTY WHERE IT IS INTENDED TO END. SADAT'S STATEMENTS THUS UNDERLINE AN UNTIMATE OBJECTIVE FOR PEACE TALKS. SECOND SADAT IS INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT OUR FAILURE TO ANNOUNCE RESULTS OF MIDDLE EAST POLICY REASSESSMENT, NOW ALMOST TWO MONTHS UNDER WAY. AS TIME DRAGS ON, HE FEARS WE ARE LOSING OUR RESOLVE BECAUSE OF ISRAELI AND DOMESTIC PRO-ISRAELI PRESSURES ON THE ADMINISTRATION AND THAT OUR MAJOR REASSESSMENT EFFORT WILL BEGET AN INCONSEQUENTIAL RESULT. HE IS PLACING US ON NOTICE THAT OUR REASSESSMENT, IF IT IS TO BE ANNOUNCED TO THE ARABS, MUST INCLUDE A USG STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT ISRAEL MUST WITHDRAW TO 1967 LINES. THIS DOES NOT OBIVIATE POSSIBILITY OF MINOR BORDER RECTIFICATIONS. THIRD, SADAT, ESPECIALLY ON HIS PRESENT TOUR, IS SEEKING TO REASSERT HIS POSITION AS PRE-EMINENT ARAB LEADER AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK FOR THE ARABS AS A WHOLE AT UPCOMING GENEVA CONFERENCE. WE BELIEVE HE HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY SKEPTICAL ABOUT PROSPECTS OF ACHIEVING AN INTERIM AGREEMENT BEFORE GENEVA, BUT WILL INSIST THAT

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CONFERENCE DEAL WITH OVERALL PROBLEM RATHER THAN PARTIAL PALLIATIVES.
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